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L.A. DEE DA ON THE STREETS

Another year '86ed, and good riddance! Last Wednesday gave freaks everywhere the excuse to rage. It was relatively easy to purge the past and rock in the New Year, considering the cornucopia of cultural events and mirthful happenings around the city. The **Variety Arts Center**, with the help of **Brendan Mullen** and Co., partyed their crowd down with local fave band **X**. An evening of continual dance action began with the festive **Tex and the Horseheads** and **T.S.O.L.** Among those seen shedding their 1986 skins here were shutterbug **Frank Gargani**, **Denise Zoom**, a **Lame Flame** or two, and a jovial **Gigi Blair**. Also lurking about was **Victor Noel**, who can be found at the same VAC this Friday having a poetry affair with notables **Dave Alvin**, **Paul Krassner**, **Marisela Norte** and those hellacious harpies **Henry Rollins** and **Lydia Lunch**. This will be a benefit for Victor's *Sentence* magazine.

There are those who know better than to venture out into the horrifying holiday traffic, one of them being that silver-headed Blondie refugee **Nigel Harrison**, who chose to have his own downhome feisty fete. **Peter McCarthy**, **Courtney Love**, **Kathy Valentine** and **Jason Celebrity Skin** braved the mean streets to mingle with several power-pop-type partyers who came complete with blazers, skinny ties and mop-top do's. **J.T.** *"Hi, I'm Peter's daughter"* **Tork** was prowling the party for a New Year's dish, and we don't mean black-eyed peas.

The party line stretched over to Argyle, where **Greg Burk** had thrown all caution, and some of his guests' clothes, to the wind, packing his grandiose homestead with a throng of revelers. The second floor was shaking from the happy feet of dainty **Magie Song** and her demure Negro spouse (who had just come from a Lingerie show with his **Satintones**), **Phast Phreddie**, weight-loss marvel **Richard Meltzer**, a most radiant **Mary Mullen**, **Peter Case** and a man of moxie, **Jonathan Gold**.

How does one get past threatening gates and into an intimate Beverly Hills bash? Jumping the fence and possibly being eaten by salivating Dobermans isn't the only way. More than 750 perceptive people found that walking up to a certain gate and muttering "catfish" to the keeper would grant them entrance. In a scene that could have been out of a million-dollar remake of "Risky Business," a gala New Year's Eve event was held at some rich kids' mansion while his parents were away, courtesy of professional party planners **Salomon** and **Jon Sidel**. **Matt Dike** was jammin' on the grooves, with assistance from **Little Max Perlich**, who will soon be traveling to Tucson to work on the movie *Boy Rents Girl*. This was the only New Year's party where you could ditch your date in the hedge mazes on your way to the pool. As **Jane Cantillon** promenaded through the foliage with her own set of hedges, also frolicking were the likes of **Limbo Lounge Billy** (probably gearing up for tonight — Thursday's — record-release party for "Chicken and Biscuits" man/girleen **Glen Meadmore**), **Cee Farow** and **April** (who had just brought their own West Hollywood shindig to its bitter end), astral princess **Chase Holiday** good-vibing some drunken jocks who were harassing **Reynaldo Rivera** (who finally harassed them right back with a broken bottle — *que macho!*), **BYO's Shawn Stern**, **Carnival's John Curry** and **Dave Hurricane**, **Christopher** from **Social Distortion**, and swinging door **Ray Manzarek**. As usual, the **LAPD** invited themselves and, finding too much fun among the young, decided to prematurely end the party, which *was* to have gone on until breakfast.

The **Zero** made a feeble attempt at opening its doors one more time. The police were creeping up and down the street, however, so the lights had to be kept low, which is usually preferable at the Zero, anyway. Occasionally someone would switch on the room's sole lightbulb, only to expose piles of rubble and some mattresses. A few celebrant casualties were exchanging pecks for the New Year in the dark of this doomed domain: **Zander** "The Snake" **Schloss** and fellow **Circle Jerk Greg Hetson** were along for whatever was dished out — which did *not* include booze. Also assuming batlike behavior in order to hang were **Suzy Gardner**, **Jula Bell**, **Candye Kane** (who's going to Nashville to meet with famed country producer **Billy Sherrill**), **Derf Scratch** and the inseparable love bunnies, fiendish **Scott Morrow** and **Debbie** "Planet Girl" **Patino**. Every once in a while the flashing light would expose what was either a full beard or a dead animal on **John Pochna**'s face.

The proposed gargantuan event of the evening (away down south at 40th and Alameda), which had promised to feature just about every band in town, various local celebrities and other assorted artists, was called off that day, just as **Legal Weapon** were sound-checking. (By the by, our sympathy goes out to the Weapon's **Kat Arthur** and Brian, who are in a state of shock following a devastating fire that destroyed their home, a cat that Kat had owned for 10 years, and all the groups' lyrics, master tapes and albums. A benefit for the bereaved pair is in the works.) According to one of the promoters, the authorities that mysteriously showed up at zero hour claimed that there were no illuminated exit signs. Apparently all of the correct permits and insurance had been secured, but even that was not enough to satisfy those pesky fire marshal types.

48 Crash was once again cooking with gas, but not at the catacombs, which have been taken over by some mysterious chemical drums that do not provide very good atmosphere. (It also didn't help that some revelers at the last Crash started peeing in the milk kegs at the dairy next door.) The new Crash was in a suitably dark downtown locale, with a giant black-light Joan Crawford art piece providing the right amount of catty atmosphere. Amongst the several hip/happening types there were **Michael Des Barres**, **Michael Mills** of **REM** (who's currently in the studio assisting **Warren Zevon** with his new Virgin album), and **Mark Walton** of **Dream Syndicate**. Also putting in a late night were **Alex Jordanov** and long-time pal **Afrika Islam**, who's currently producing **Ice T.**'s new album for Sire (which will include guest artists **Grandmaster Caz** and **Melle Mel**).

"Bats not Bombs," which is collecting proceeds to bring the Nicaraguan national baseball team to the U.S. in the spring, had a successful benefit at **Madame Wong's West** last Sunday night. **Radwaste**, who will soon be seen in the movie *Tips'* with such famous types as **Robert Culp**, **Isabelle Sanford** and **Phyllis Diller**, played with other "too hot to squat" combos, among them **10 Foot Faces** and **2 Damascus**. Radwaste was in the top of their set when guitarist **Michael Kory** noticed something odd about his sound. Turns out the sound man had retreated to the downstairs bar, completely ignoring his duties. Luckily for everyone, **Television Show**'s **Ray Keating** took control and brought it home successfully. (It's a good thing that sound man isn't an air traffic controller.) Also in the audience was **Steve Stain**, formerly of the **Blue Daisies**, who is currently working on an album for **New Alliance**.

Sunday night was stormy at the Roxy, when **Johnny** "Will he stay on his feet?" **Thunders** came to town. The club was packed with wet fans, including **Keith Morris** with his leg in a cast (the dear boy was jumping around too much again), **Tony Kinman**, and **Taime Down** from **Faster Pussycat**, who were just signed by Elektra. The Pussys had been scheduled to play with Mr. Thunders the night before at **Fender's**, but had to cancel — seems that when Taime was home visiting his folks, some jock-types didn't approve of his appearance and tried to modify his face to their specifications by punching his front tooth out. Those hot rockin' **Sea Hags** and **The Sound and the Fury** opened the Roxy show. The singer for the latter is **Jack** of early T.S.O.L. days. Speaking of which, **Joe Wood**, who replaced Jack in T.S.O.L. (who are reputedly not too thrilled that Jack is singing some of their old songs for his new set), will be marrying Jack's sister **DeeDee** soon. Any resemblence to *Knot's Landing* is purely coincidental.

Now that we've finished with the old, on to the new! This Saturday promises to be the rocking event of the New Year, as the first annual **World Music Video Awards** broadcasts down at the **Palace** (live via satellite) to more than 240 million people. The U.S. portion of this global event (which includes live action from Japan, England, Australia, Italy and France) will be shown later that night on the new Fox network. **Run-DMC**, **The Bangles** and **The Beastie Boys** will be included in the Palace segment, and look for those Beasties to show up afterward at a big gala bash presented by the **Hammerhouse Girls** at their club, **Performance**. Aided and abetted by **SWAve Merrill Ward**, Cee Farrow and **George Michael's** fave L.A. DJ, **Kathy Jeung**, this will be your night to party, with the chillin'-est crowd puttin' out the word. We say, "Be there, or be weak." Meanwhile one of the Performance pals, **Miss Pamela**, is organizing a party to follow next week's tribute to **Herschell Gordon Lewis** at the **Variety Arts Center**. She's looking for 25 people to audition as gore-gore girls, maniacs and ghouls. Call (818) 508-1428 — if you dare.

From the daring tarts at L.A. Dee Da,
Kimberly Tarnation Jones, Aliki Transmission, Claigus

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